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FOR AF/W

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EFIN](#) [EAID](#) [ELAB](#) [PREL](#) [SL](#)

SUBJECT: STRIKE BY CENTRAL BANK WORKERS

[11](#). (U) The employees of the central Bank of Sierra Leone went out on strike on Monday, November 5 in protest over salaries and benefits. The workers say they intend to come to work each day, stand in front of the headquarters building until 2:00 pm and then return home. The action potentially brings Central Bank operations to a standstill. If the strike is not resolved in a few days the commercial banking sector could experience difficulties.

[12](#). (U) The reasons given for the strike are primarily over salary and benefits. The workers complain that they have not received promised bonuses, they object to proposed changes in rent allowance payments, and have expressed concern over their National Social Security Insurance Trust system. (Comment: We have learned from a senior government official that partial payment of benefits has been made. Government and workers are set to meet again on Friday, November 9. End comment.)

[13](#). (U) The strike by Central Bank employees is just one of a number of actions by government employees. Local and municipal government workers in Bo and Kenema have recently struck. The teachers are also threatening to strike. All of these groups express similar economic grievances.
PERRY